



AND

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Travels.

Extract from M. PARK'S *Travels in the Interior districts of Africa, in the years 1795, 1796 and 1797.*

August 18, 1796. I arrived in the evening at Taffara, and inquired for the Dooty,* but was informed, that he had died a few days before my arrival, and that there was, at that moment, a meeting of the chief men for electing another, there being some dispute about the succession. It was probably owing to this unsettled state of the town, that I experienced such a want of hospitality in it, for tho' I informed the inhabitants, that I should only remain with them for one night, and assured them that Mansong had given me some Kowries to pay for my lodging, yet no person invited me to come in; and I was forced to sit alone under the Bentang tree, exposed to the rain and wind of a tornado, which lasted with great violence until midnight. At this time the stranger, who had assisted me in crossing the river, paid me a visit, and observing that I had not found lodging, invited me to take part of his supper, which he had brought to the door of his hut; for, being a guest himself, he could not, without his landlord's consent, invite me to come in. After this I slept upon some wet grass in the corner of a court. My horse fared still worse than myself; the corn I had purchased being all expended, and I could not procure a supply.

August 20.—I passed the town of Jaba, and stopped a few minutes at a village called Somino, where I begged and obtained some coarse food, which the natives prepare from the husks of corn, and call *Boo*. About two o'clock I came to the village of

Sooha, and endeavoured to purchase some corn from the Dooty, who was sitting by the gate; but without success. I then requested a little food by way of charity, but was told he had none to spare. Whilst I was examining the countenance of this inhospitable old man, and endeavouring to find out the cause of the sullen discontent which was visible in his eye, he called to a slave who was working in the corn field at a little distance, and ordered him to bring his paddle along with him. The Dooty then told him to dig a hole in the ground, pointing to a spot at no great distance. The slave with his paddle began to dig a pit in the earth, and the Dooty, who appeared to be a man of a very fretful disposition, kept muttering and talking to himself until the pit was almost finished, when he repeatedly pronounced the words *dankatoo* (good for nothing) *jankra lemen* (a real plague) which expressions I thought could be applied to nobody but myself; and as the pit had very much the appearance of a grave, I thought it prudent to mount my horse, and was about to decamp, when the slave, who had before gone into the village, to my surprise, returned with the corpse of a boy about nine or ten years of age, quite naked. The negro carried the body by a leg and an arm, and threw it into the pit with a savage indifference, which I had never before seen. As he covered the body with earth, the Dooty often expressed himself, *naphulu at-tiniata* (money lost) whence I concluded that the boy had been one of his slaves.

Departing from this shocking scene, I travelled by the side of the river until sunset, when I came to Koolikorro, a considerable town, and a great market for salt. Here I took up my lodging at the house of a Bambaran, who had formerly been the slave of a Moor, and in that character had travelled to Aroan, Towdinni, and many other places in the Great Desert; but turning Mussulman, and his master dying at Jenné, he obtained his freedom, and settled at this place, where he carries on a consid-

erable trade in salt, cotton-cloth, &c. His knowledge of the world had not lessened that superstitious confidence in saphies and charms, which he had imbibed in his earlier years, for when he heard I was a Christian, he immediately thought of procuring a saphie, and for this purpose brought out his *walka*, or writing board, assuring me, that he would dress me a supper of rice, if I would write him a saphie to protect him from wicked men. The proposal was of too great consequence to me to be refused; I therefore wrote the board full from top to bottom, on both sides; and my landlord to be certain of having the whole force of the charm, washed the writing from the calabash with a little water, and having said a few prayers over it, drank this powerful draught; after which, lest a single word should escape, he licked the board until it was quite dry. A saphie writer was a man of too great consequence to be long concealed; the important information was carried to the Dooty, who sent his son with half a sheet of writing paper, desiring me to write him a *naphula saphie* (a charm to procure wealth.) He brought me as a present, some meal and milk; and when I had finished the saphie, and read it to him with an audible voice, he seemed highly satisfied with his bargain, and promised to bring me in the morning some milk for my breakfast. When I had finished my supper of rice and salt. I laid myself down upon a bullock's hide, and slept very quietly until morning, this being the first good meal and refreshing sleep that I had enjoyed for long time.

August 21.—At day break I departed from Koolikorro, and about noon passed the villages of Kayoo and Toolumbo. In the afternoon I arrived at Murraboo, a large town, and like Koolikorro, famous for its trade in salt. I was conducted to the house of a Kaartan, of the tribe of Jower, by whom I was well received. This man had acquired a considerable property in the slave trade, and from his hospitality to

* A name for the chief magistrate of a town or province.

strangers, was called, by way of pre-eminence, *Jatee*, (the landlord) and his house was a sort of public inn for all travellers. Those who had money were well lodged, for they always made him some return for his kindness; but those who had nothing to give, were content to accept whatever he thought proper, and as I could not rank myself among the monied men, I was happy to take up my lodgings in the same hut with seven poor fellows who had come from Kancaba in a canoe; but our landlord sent us some victuals.

August 22. One of the landlord's servants went with me a little way from the town, to shew me what road to take; but whether from ignorance or design, I know not, he directed me wrong, and I did not discover my mistake until the day was far advanced, when coming to a deep creek, I had some thoughts of turning back, but as by that means I foresaw that I could not possibly reach Bammakoo before night, I resolved to cross it, and leading my horse close to the brink, I went behind him and pushed him headlong into the water, and then taking the bridle in my teeth, swam over to the other side. This was the third creek I had crossed in this manner since I had left Sego; but having secured my notes and memorandums in the crown of my hat, I received little or no inconvenience from such adventures. The rain and heavy dew kept my clothes constantly wet, and the roads being very deep, and full of mud, such a washing was sometimes pleasant and often necessary. I continued travelling though high grass, without any beaten road, and about noon came to a river, the banks of which are very rocky, and the force and roar of the water was very great. The king of Bambarra's canoes, however frequently pass these rapids by keeping close to the bank, persons being stationed on the shore with ropes fastened to the canoe, while others push it forward with poles. At this time however, it would I think have been a great difficulty, for any European boat to have crossed the stream. About four o'clock in the afternoon having altered my course from the river towards the mountains, I came to a small pathway, which led to a village called Frookaboo, where I slept.

Extract from a Novel, entitled MORDAUNT, or Sketches of Life, Characters, and Manners, in various countries—written by Dr. MOORE, author of "Zeluco" and "Edward."

LETTER XIV.

The Hon. JOHN MORDAUNT to Col. SUMMERS.

OUR muleteer was a good deal surprised, and a little angry, at seeing Travers and me laughing in the middle of the storm. He moved on rather sulkily; but before we could arrive at the inn, where we intended to pass the night, we perceived a lone house in the midst of underwood, at the foot of a mountain, and at a considera-

ble distance from the high road. The muleteer declared that the best thing we could do was to take shelter, for the night, in that house.

As I had been told that all those frontiers were inhabited by gangs of smugglers, who are the most desperate fellows in Spain, and sometimes act as robbers, I was not very fond of the proposal. I mentioned this to Travers, who, shrugging his shoulders, said "he would do as I pleased; but that it was better to be robbed than drowned." Meanwhile a stout fellow well mounted, rode by us towards the house: he had a gun on each side, slung in the manner in which a dragoon carries his carrabine, and the man had under him a well-filled package of considerable bulk.

The muleteer asked him whether he might be permitted to shelter his mules from the storm.

"Do you think that my house is inhabited by Moors?" said the man.

The muleteer drove directly up to the house, unharnessed his mules, put them in to the stable, which seemed to be the first room of the mansion; for thro' it we passed to the kitchen, where we found three men and two women, with a blind musician, sitting by the fire, strumming a guitar, which he accompanied by occasional stanzas through his nose. The company were so attentive to the music, that they took little notice of Travers and me, till the person we had seen on the road, and whom we found to be the master of the house, came in,—"Why do you stand apart, like intruders?" said he, "in a loud and rather surly tone: I invited you to my house, which you ought therefore to consider as your own."

We bowed, and approached nearer to the fire. In a short time supper was laid upon a long table in the same room. The landlord made Travers sit on one side of him, and me on the other: he pressed us to every dish on the table. The principal one consisted of pieces of mutton and kid, stewed with abundance of hog's lard, and strongly seasoned: there was also a large dish of salad, swimming in rancid oil, called a *gaspa-cho*. All the company eat voraciously of both, except Travers and me. Neither our own appetite, though keen, nor the landlord's invitation, could overcome the repugnance excited by the flavour and appearance of those two dishes. To make amends, however, we eat abundantly of the bread, which was very good, and of oranges, of which abundance are to be found in every cottage. We would have drank more of the wine had it not been extremely strong and fiery. Our landlord mistook the reason of our giving a preference to the bread, and frequently assured us that we were just as welcome to the highest-seasoned dish on the table as to that.

The supper being ended, the company wrapped themselves in their great cloaks, and laid themselves on the ground, except one man, who preferred the table, and another, who chose the stone bench next the fire.

I happened to say something to the muleteer concerning our baggage; this was overheard by the landlord—"Senior," said he, bluntly, "you are in my house; it is my business that all your things be properly taken care of."

He then desired Travers and me to follow him, which we did, into a room where there was a bed.—"This is the only bed in the house," said he: "as you are strangers, it is for you—*buenas noches*;" so saying he left the room.

"If this man after all should prove a knave, I shall be much surprised, (said I) so much has he the manners of a honest man."

It is the business of knaves to make others believe that they are honest, replied Travers.

"This man has succeeded with me," said I.

"Do you think he has succeeded with himself?" said Travers.

"I am persuaded he has," answered I.

"Then depend upon it, he is an honest man," added Travers; "for though a man may deceive the rest of the world in that point, yet, were he as cunning as the devil, he cannot deceive himself."

"Right, Tom," rejoined I struck with his observation: "and thus a knave can never be secure, even in this life; for in spite of all his circumspection to keep his wickedness concealed, there is always one person in the world acquainted with it; and it is wisely ordered, that when nobody else could, that single witness very often betrays him, and brings him to shame."

I happened to step out of our bedchamber after this, and was highly pleased to find the storm entirely abated; but a good deal surprised, at the same time, that every person seemed fast asleep, though all the doors of the house, even that to the fields, were open.

When I returned, however, I thought proper to shut that of our bed-chamber, and then lay down in my clothes beside Travers, who was already stretched on the bed.

We were awaked early in the morning by the muleteer, who informed us that every thing was ready. After breakfasting on bread and wine, I went in search of our landlord, whom I found already mounted and accoutred; as he had been the day before, with his two guns,—I asked him what was to pay?

He looked displeased, and said, "his house was not an inn."

I thanked him for his hospitality;—but still," said I, "you will be so good as to give this to the maid who dressed our supper, and the man who assisted the muleteer, neither of whom I can find."

"I pay them their wages," said he, refusing the money, and directly riding off.

1 an, &c.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States, met both Houses of Congress in the Senate Chamber, at the Capitol, where he delivered the following SPEECH.

Gentleman of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

IMMEDIATELY after the adjournment of Congress at their last session in Philadelphia, I gave directions, in compliance with the laws, for the removal of the public offices, records and property. These directions have been executed, and the public officers have since resided and conducted the ordinary business of the government in this place.

I congratulate the people of the United States, on the assembling of Congress at the permanent seat of their government; and I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the prospect of the residence not to be changed,—although there is cause to apprehend that the accommodations are not now so complete as might be wished, yet there is great reason to believe that this inconvenience will cease with the present session.

It would be unbecoming the Representatives of this nation to assemble for the first time, in this solemn temple, without looking up to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and imploring his blessing:

May this Territory be the Residence of Virtue and Happiness! In this city may that piety and virtue; that wisdom and magnanimity; that constancy and self-government, which adorned the great character whose name it bears, be forever held in veneration! Here, and throughout our country, may simple manners, pure morals, and true Religion, flourish forever.

It is with you gentleman, to consider, whether the local powers, over the district of Columbia, vested by the Constitution in the Congress of the United States, shall be immediately exercised. If, in your opinion, this important trust ought now to be executed, you cannot fail, while performing it, to take into view, the future probable situation of the territory, for the happiness of which you are about to provide.

You will consider it as the capital of a great nation, advancing with unexampled rapidity, in arts in commerce, in wealth and in population; and possessing within itself those energies and resources, which, if not thrown away, or lamentably misdirected, will secure to it a long course of prosperity, and self-government.

In compliance with a law of the last session of Congress, the officers and soldiers of the temporary army have been discharged. It affords real pleasure to recollect the honorable testimony they gave of the patriotic motives which brought them into the service of their country, by the readiness and regularity with which they returned to the station of private citizens.

It is, in every point of view of such primary importance, to carry the laws into prompt and faithful execution, and to render that part of the administration of justice, which the constitution and laws devolve on

the Federal Courts, as convenient to the people, as may consist with their present circumstances; that I cannot omit once more to recommend to your serious consideration, the judiciary system of the United States. No subject is more interesting than this to the public happiness, and to none can those improvements, which, may have been suggested, by experience, be more beneficially applied.

A treaty of Amity and Commerce with the king of Prussia been concluded and ratified. The ratifications have been exchanged, and I have directed the treaty to be promulgated by proclamation.

The difficulties which suspended the execution of the 6th article of our Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation with Great Britain, have not yet been removed. The negotiation on this subject is still depending. As it must be for the interest and honor of both nations to adjust this difference with good faith, I indulge confidently, the expectation, that the sincere endeavours of the government of the United States, to bring it to an amicable termination, will not be disappointed.

The Envoys extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary, from the United States to France, were received by the First Consul with the respect due to their character; and three persons with equal powers were appointed to treat with them. Although at the date of the last official intelligence the negotiation had not terminated, yet it is to be hoped, that our efforts to effect an accommodation, will, at length, meet with a success proportioned to the sincerity with which they have been so often repeated.

While our best endeavours for the preservation of harmony with all nations, will continue to be used, the experience of the world and our own experience, admonish us of the insecurity of trusting too confidently to their success. We cannot without committing a dangerous imprudence, abandon those measures of self-protection, which are adapted to our situation, and to which, notwithstanding our pacific policy, the violence and injustice of others may compel us to resort. While our vast extent of sea-coast, the commercial and agricultural habits of our people, the great capital they will continue to trust on the ocean, suggest the system of defence which will be most beneficial to ourselves, our distance from Europe, and our resources for maritime strength, will enable us to employ it with effect. Seasonable and systematic arrangements so far as our resources will justify, for a Navy, adapted to defensive war, and which may in case of necessity, be quickly brought into use, seem to be as much recommended by a wise and true economy, as by a just regard for our future tranquillity—for the safety of our shores, and for the protection of our property committed to the ocean.

The present Navy of the United States, called suddenly into existence by a great national exigency has raised us in our own esteem, and by the protection afforded to our commerce, has effected, to the extent of our expectations, the object for which it was created.

In connection with a Navy ought to be contemplated the fortifications of some of

our principal sea-ports and harbours. A variety of considerations, which will readily suggest themselves, urge an attention to this measure of precaution. To give security to our principal ports, considerable sums have already been expended, but the works remain incomplete. It is for Congress to determine whether additional appropriations shall be made, in order to render competent to the intended purposes the fortifications which have been commenced.

The manufacture of arms within the United States, still invites the attention of the National Legislature. At a considerable expense to the public, this manufacture has been brought to such a state of maturity, as with continued encouragement, will supercede the necessity of future importations from foreign countries.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

I shall direct the estimates of the appropriations necessary for the ensuing year, together with an account of the public revenue and expenditure, to a like period, to be laid before you.

I observe with much satisfaction, that the product of the revenue during the present year, has been more considerable than during any former equal period. This result affords conclusive evidence of the great resources of this country, and of the wisdom and efficiency of the measures, which have been adopted by Congress for the protection of commerce and preservation of public credit.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

As one of the grand community of Nations, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the important scenes which surround us. If they have excited an uncommon portion of calamity, it is the province of humanity to deplore, and wisdom to avoid the causes which may have produced it. If turning our eyes homeward, we find reason to rejoice at the prospect which presents itself; if we perceive the interior of our country prosperous, free and happy; if we all enjoy safety under the protection of laws, emanating only from the general will, the fruits of our own labour, we ought to fortify and cling to those institutions, which have been the source of much real felicity, and resist with unabating perseverance the progress of those dangerous innovations, which may diminish their influence.

To your patriotism, gentleman, has been confided the honourable duty of guarding the public interest, and while the past is to your country a sure pledge that it will be faithfully discharged, permit me to assure you that your labours to promote the general happiness will receive from me the most zealous co-operation.

JOHN ADAMS.

UNITED STATES,
NOVEMBER 22, 1800 }

THE EXTRAVAGANT SEXTON.

A Poor man lately lost his leg by amputation; the Sexton insisted upon his paying 16d. for burying it. The pauper appealed to the Parson, who said that he could not relieve him in the present case, but he would consider it in his fees when the remainder of his body came to be buried.

POETRY.

GENIUS INERT,

BY A. THOMPSON.

AH! why so seldom does the stream of Song,
Break forth, by Genius swelled beyond control
So seldom pour its mighty waves along,
And swell with rapture's flood th' astonish'd soul,
Why, but for this—that all along the shore
The pendant sons of Classic taste reside;
Who tremble when they hear the waters roar,
For all their pretty works on either side.
Lest all that swells their feeble hearts with pride,
Their scentless, tiny beds of tulips gay;
Their roots so rare and summer domes beside,
Should by the torrent rude be swept away;
Whose force they strive incessant to restrain,
By many a critic dam, and formal drain.

PARADOX.

Four people sat down in one evening to play,
They play'd all that eve, and parted next day,
Could you think, when you're told, as 'thus they all sat,
No other play'd with them, nor was there one bet—
Yet when they rose up, each gained a guinea,
Tho' none of 'em lost to th' amount of a penny.

ANSWER.

Four merry fiddlers play'd all night,
To many a dancing niunny;
And the next morning went away,
And each receiv'd a guinea.

CURIOUS FIGHT

BETWEEN A MONKEY AND A BULL DOG.

A curious battle lately took place, at Worcester (Eng.) between these two animals, on a wager of three guineas to one, that the Dog killed the Monkey in six minutes; the owner of the dog agreed to permit the monkey to use a stick about a foot long.—Hundreds of spectators assembled to witness the fight, and bets ran eight, nine, and ten to one in favour of the dog, which could hardly be held in. The owner of the monkey taking from his side pocket a thick round ruler about a foot long, threw it into the paws of the monkey, saying, "Now, Jack, look sharp, mind that dog!"—"Then here goes for your monkey!" cries the butcher, letting the dog loose, which flew with a tiger like fierceness. The monkey, with astonishing agility, sprang at least a yard high, and falling upon the dog, laid fast hold of the back of the neck with his teeth, seizing one ear with his left paw, so as to prevent his turning to bite. In this unexpected situation, Jack fell to work with his ruler upon the head of the dog, which he beat so forcibly and rapidly, that the creature cried out most eloquently. In short, the skull was soon fractured, and the dog carried off in nearly a lifeless state.—The monkey was of the middle size.

ESSAY ON GENIUS.

[From a late London Magazine.]

HOW fortunate it must be, that, surrounded as we are by "wars and rumours of wars," we have leisure to contemplate the vast increase of GENIUS, which is obvious in every compa-

ny and society with which we may happen to mix. For my own part, I am almost tired of seeing so many geniuses, and heartily wish we had a peace on the continent, that I might retire to some quarter where I could meet with a few plain, dull fellows, like myself, and not run the risk of being knocked down by a Genius in every turning.

It was but the other day that I happened to call at my shoemaker's for a pair of list shoes to preserve my old bones.—"Pray, (says I,) Mr. Solem, what do you intend to do with your son, there? He is old enough now for some business."—"Why, master, I means to bind him to my own trade, for he has a great genius for it."

I have likewise the honour to employ a carpenter, who was recommended to me as a great genius in fitting up a room; and he very naturally introduced a painter, another prodigious genius at a varnish.

Do we look at the fine arts, how immense the concourse of geniuses at one exhibition of paintings! The papers, indeed, do not treat them all with equal respect; but what does that signify? If a boy can daub something like a blue boar, or a red cow, or a golden lion, do not all his friends set him down for a genius; and does he not commence gentleman on the strength?—As to Music, the whole nation may be deemed geniuses, from the blind fidler at the corner of the street, up to Cramer. What immense numbers of geniuses may be heard piping, fiddling and floating every night, in hopes that one day or other they may preside. I have a neighbour who had the honour of two musical sons, both eminent vocal performers; the one took his degrees in music at the Horse-shoe and the other at the Goose and Gridiron. Flattered by the encouragement of such reputable academies, and having received diplomas from the "Odd Fellows, the Free and Easy, and the Jolly Friars," they commenced their career as geniuses, and undoubtedly would have risen to envied stations in our most fashionable orchestras, had not the eldest been murdered one morning, as he was stepping out of a tavern a little before day, by a gang of night-walkers by whom he was unfortunately met:—and the youngest I know not why, went twice over to America, where he remained on the first visit, 7 years, and on the second 14, after which his parents received no tidings of this genius.

If we proceed to the sister art, Poetry, I am certain we shall find the proportion considerably increased, especially as it unfortunately happens, that it is much easier to handle the pen than the bow or the brush, as poets are a kind of people who do not wait until others call them geniuses, but consider themselves in that light from the moment they have tagged two lines together

I heartily wish that something could be done to reduce the number of geniuses, otherwise we shall very soon be in want of artificers and handicraftsmen of all descriptions. It is wonderful how much genius stands in the way of trade. I am obliged to send three or four streets off in the morning for my bread, because my baker has a genius for agriculture; and I seldom get a suit of clothes from my tailor, without perceiving that he has been employing his genius upon metaphysics. My worthy opposite neighbour, an eminent merchant, is perpetually complaining of having an enlightened compting-house. "I have not a clerk, (says he,) who is not fit for every thing but what I employ him on. I am in continual danger of having my invoices written in rhyme; my answers to foreign correspondents would do credit to the university of Oxford; my book-keeper enters a room as if he were to speak a prologue; and I have a clever young dog, who collects bills, but who is so intent upon your answers to correspondents, that I can seldom get any to mine."

And, lastly, even in domestic matters we have the advantage of being attended by geniuses. My dame is always telling me what a genius our daughter is at mince-meat,—and persuaded me to allow my son to venture his neck on the river, last frost, because he was a genius at skating.—Pray, Mr. Editor, let your correspondents take this matter into consideration, and propose some scheme for the reduction of genius, that business may not stand still.

NO GENIUS.

HEROISM OF A PEASANT.

A great inundation having taken place in the north of Italy, owing to an excessive fall of snow in the Alps, followed by a speedy thaw the river Adige carried off a bridge near Verona, except the middle part, on which was the house of the toll-gatherer, or porter; and who, with his whole family, thus remained imprisoned by the waves, and in momentary danger of destruction. They were discovered from the banks, stretching forth their hands, screaming, and imploring succour, while fragments of the remaining arch continually dropped into the water. In this danger, a nobleman, who was present, a Count of Pulverini, held out a purse of 100 sequins, as a reward to any adventurer who would take a boat and deliver this unhappy family. But the risk was so great of being borne down by the rapidity of the stream, of being dashed against the fragments of the bridge, or being crushed by the falling stones, that not one, in the vast number of spectators, had courage enough to attempt such an exploit. A peasant, passing along, was informed of the proposed reward: immediately jumping into a boat, he, by strength of oars gained the middle of the river, brought his boat under the pile, and the whole family safely descended by means of a rope.—"Courage! (cried he) now you are safe." By a still more strenuous effort, and great strength of arm, he brought the boat and family to the shore. "Brave fellow, (exclaimed the Count, handing the purse,) here is the promised recompence."—"I shall never expose my life for money, (answered the peasant,) my labour is a sufficient livelihood for myself, my wife and children. Give the purse to that poor family, which has lost all!"